THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected.

2162. (Transferred to 18th March, 1993)

Drought prone areas in the country

2163. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:
SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR YADAV "RAVI":

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a scheme to undertake certain works in perennial drought prone areas particularly in Northern States in the country to control the famines;

(b) whether the Government of Northern States and Bihar have forwarded any scheme in this regard;

(c) if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(d) whether Government have conducted any survey in this regard;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (f) Government of Rajasthan have prepared a Perspective Plan for implementation of relief-cum-development works on a systematic basis in perennial drought prone areas. The perspective plan (1992-2000) received from the Government of Rajasthan envisages a financial outlay of Rs. 1670.00 crores, for undertaking activities in the field of drinking water supply, water-shed development and soil conservation, irrigation and area development, agriculture, Public Distribution System, animal husbandry, forestry, roads, village industries, energy, cooperatives, social welfare, women and child development, immunisation, nutrition and medicare and rural housing and farm ponds.

While no detailed survey in this regard has been conducted, the Perspective Plan, which has been prepared in consultation with the district authorities, would serve as a basis and guide for working out detailed district action plans, which on mobilisation of required resources would be addressing themselves to the task of drought proofing.

No other State Government has submitted any proposal for this purpose.

Ruling prices of agriculture commodities

2164. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the ruling prices of various agriculture commodities in the market;

(b) what are the corresponding prices of the last two years; and

(c) what are the reasons for the decline in prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The ruling prices of agricultural commodities vary from commodity to commodity and market to market. The range of wholesale prices of 17 important agricultural commodities in the mid-February, 1993, 1992 and 1991 are shown in the enclosed statement. (*see* below)

(c) The prices of items at serial number 8 to 17 (enclosed statement) have declined in varying degrees this year compared to last year. The decline in prices can be attributed among other factors to good kharif harvest and bright prospects for rabi crop, import of wheat and edible oils.

unloading of stocks by the trade, restriction on the exports and inter-State movement of certain commodities, etc.

Statement

Range of wholesale prices of 17 *agricultural commodities in mid February* 1991, 1992 *and* 1993

(Rs. per qtl.)

Commodities	Mid February 1991	1992	1993
1. Rice (Common)	305—557	412—680	440—650
2. Gram (Whole)	569—850	595—760	810—1000
3. Gur	324—775	320—850	485—865
4. Arhar	700—1475	650—1780	730—1400
5. Mung	605—1110	760—1175	600—1425
6. Groundnut (Kernel)	1090—1900	985—2100	1100—1900
7. Onion	330—750	45—350	250—550
8. Jower (Yellow)	130—350	345—575	210—380
9. Maize (Desi)	204—320	225—455	214—340
10. Bajra (Hyorid)	206—389	376—550	204—360
11. Wheat (Kalyan)	308—435	370—520	285—460
12. Barley	260—360	253—425	188—315
13. Urad	525—1135	610—1150	550—1080
14. Rapeseed & Mustard	950—1320	650—1300	700—925
15. Cotton	650—1120	930—2000	675—1100
16. Jute	590—700	385—500	407—450
17. Potato	125—300	110—270	85—333

बिहार में कृषि का विकास

2165. श्री गया सिंह : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बिहार राज्य में भूमि के अधिकांश भाग पर खेती की जाती है और यदि हां, तो केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा उस राज्य में कृषि क्षेत्र के विकास हेतु क्या-क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं; और

(ख) कृषि-उत्पादन को बढ़ाने और कृषि-उत्पादनों को नाशक कीटों से बचाने हेतु क्या विशेष उपाय किये जा रहे हैं?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अरविन्द नेताम) : (क) और (ख) बिहार में भू-उपयोग सांख्यिकी 1989-90 (आद्यतन उपलब्ध) के अनुसार कुल सूचित क्षेत्र में से कृषि क्षेत्र का प्रतिशत 54.6 होने का अनुमान है, जो 55.9 प्रतिशत के अखिल भारतीय औसत से कुछ ही अधिक है। बिहार राज्य में कृषि क्षेत्र के विकास के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार विभिन्न योजनायें कार्यान्वित कर